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Date: April 6, 2004

TO: Examiner Long Pham (703) 872-9319
Art Unit: 2814

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Subject Matter: 09/ 996,864 Attorney Doc: 67,200-600

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Total number of pages sent: - 9 - (including this cover sheet)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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First Named Applicant: Cheng-Ku Chen

Application No.: 09/996,864 (CONF 4851)

Filed: 11/19/2001

Title: Hard mask trimming with thin hard mask layer
and top protection layer

Attorney Docket No.: 67,200-600

Group Art Unit:
2814

Examiner:
Long Pham

APR 06 2004

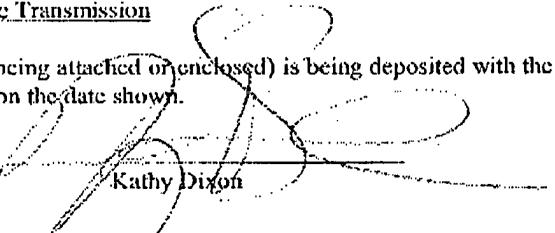
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Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Date: April 15, 2004


Kathy Dixon

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 6, 2004, please amend the application as follows, and consider the following remarks.